(v) International Science Olympiad in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Informatics.

Under the Schemes mentioned at (ii), (iii) and (iv) above, financial assistance is normally provided to certain agencies, including Non Governmental Organizations, for specific activities in the relevant fields, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed for such schemes.

Open Universities

1224. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of open universities as on date location-wise;

(b) whether Government propose to open some more open universities in various States to encourage distant education particularly in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the curriculum finalized for such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) There are 14 Open Universities in the country. The location-wise details in this regard are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Distance Education Council, a statutory body under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, which has been entrusted with the responsibility of promotion, coordination and maintenance of standards in open and distance learning system, makes concerted efforts with State Gvoernments for the establishment of State Open Universities. Tamil Nadu Open University has already been established in the year 2002 at Chennai and, is receiving development assistance from the Distance Education Council.

The curriculum of the various courses/programmes offered by each Open University is finalized by the respective universities, after getting necesssary approval by their statutory bodies, such as Academic Council, Board of Management etc.

Statement

List of Open Universities

State Open Universities	Name of State	Year of Establishment
National Open University Set up under Act of Parliament	**Year of Establishment**	
1. Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.	1985	
2. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad.	Andhra Pradesh	1982
3. Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota.	Rajasthan	1987
4. Nalanda Open University, Patna.	Bihar	1987
5. Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik.	Maharashtra	1989
6. M.P. Bhoj Open University, Bhopal.	Madhya Pradesh	1991
7. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad.	Gujarat	1994
8. Karnataka State Open University, Mysore.	Karnataka	1996
9. Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata.	West Bengal	1997
10. U.P. Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad.	Uttar Pradesh	1998
11. Tamil Nadu Open University, Chennai.	Tamil Nadu	2002
12. Pt. Sundarlal Sharma (Open) University Chhattisgarh, Bilaspur.	Chhattisgarh	2004
13. Uttranchal Mukta Viswavidyalaya, Haldwani.	Uttranchal	2005
14. Assam State Open University, Guwahati,	Assam	2005